The Daily Eurofurence

Ringberg Hotel Suhl. Wednesday, 26th August 2009

Welcome!

A warm welcome to Eurofurence 15, dear reader. Hundreds of furs from all over Europe - in fact all over the globe - have gathered at the Ringberg to celebrate five days of furry friendship, creativity and intense partying. And you're one of them, you lucky dog!

What you are holding in your paw (or hoof) is the first issue of Eurofurence's daily newsletter. We like to think of it as a small but comprehensive newspaper. You can read it with your morning coffee, and it will provide you with information about today's program, important announcements, but also interviews, reports and reviews. Four writers and two photographers track down the stories for you.

There's even more. We've got cartoons, puzzles and "Starlit Encounter", a serialized short story with a fresh take on "Arabian Nights". Enjoy! *(lux)*

"We're prepared" says Hotel Manager

Not afraid of fursuiters: hotel manager Wolfgang Kanzig (right) and his deputy, Marko Kornhaß. photo: tam

Accomodating and feeding hundreds of furries is no easy task. But hotel manager Wolfgang Kanig and his team have always looked forward to a challenge.

„Everything's easier the third time", says hotel manager Wolfgang Kanig. „The catering concept has been established and we can use last year's numbers as a basis for our calculations. This way, we had a good idea of how many patties for the special Eurofurence Burger we had to order – around 1500."

This year, there are even more guests to take care of, due to the increase in room sharing - about 750 in total. The hotel's 80 extra beds were just about enough. Eurofurence is a big event, but the Ringberg hotel has expertise in handling all kinds of big events, as Mr. Kanig explains. „The other month we held a dinner for 900 senior citizens."

Eurofurence causes the hotel staff a few extra shifts, but Mr. Kanig assures, that they don't mind. "We are happy to work twice as hard if an event is worth it. And everybody is looking forward to the return of the furries." *(lux)*

No Program? No Problem!

Sonnypup jamming away on his guitar. photo: tam

As the concept of "early arrival" has gained popularity, the visitors feel themselves confronted with the question of how to spend their time. While the staff uses the day for last minute maintenance, most furs spend the evening socializing. Catching up with friends during a game of "live-size chess", enjoying a drink, as well as nice banter of lewd jokes, for example, helps pass the time just as good as flying drones and doing aerial shots of the hotel, viewed through a VR-Visor or doing art and music. *(cur)*

EF visitors: 30 Nations under one Roof

A Dutch flag, hung out of a window. photo : ang

Eurofurence 15 brings together a total of 911 furs from thirty countries on three continents. The largest group are Germans with 390 participants (43 percent), followed by UK-furs (132, or 14 percent). The third-largest group is, surprisingly, not European: 59 US furs made it here. Other large groups arrive from the Netherlands (53), France (42), Austria (39), Switzerland (32), Finland (29) and Russia (27). In the mediterranean countries, Eurofurence is less well established with only one participant each from Italy, Greece and Spain. *(lux)*

Logistics: The Busy Bees Behind the Scenes

There are tasks at the convention that at first might seem trivial, for example setting up the panel rooms for each event or darkening the stage area windows. This is the domain of Logistics. Responsible for this area is Hoyt, according to whom it equals to a full time job during the convention. Aside from Hoyt himself, workforce is drawn from volunteers as needed.

Back in the day, 'gophers', volunteers were available at short notice, but with the growth of the convention the current model of dedicated volunteers is the only possibility. Also the number of those directly involved with logistics has increased, from Riffuchs and three helpers back in the day at EF12 to currently around 20 volunteers and a dedicated logistics leader. To illustrate the scale of some of the tasks, darkening the stage area windows requires 800 meters of aluminium foil. *(hhp)*

Between Dykes and Sheep: EF 1

Beach boys: Visitors of Eurofurence 1 take a stroll on the flat sands of the North Sea. photo: Cairyn

Today, Eurofurence is the longest running furry convention and attracts 900 visitors. Nothing of this could have been anticipated by the 18 visitors of Eurofurence 1 in Kaiser-Wilhelm-Koogt.

The mother of all Eurofurences was organized via a mailing list and took place at the farmhouse of Tes-Hui H'ar's parents in the flat lands of Schleswig-Holstein, surrounded by dykes, sheep, wind turbines and the North Sea. Four days, 30th June - 3rd July 1995.

"The atmosphere was great; extremely relaxed", remembers Cheetah, current chairman. "Everybody who possessed something furry-related, brought it there - those things were rare and special back then. It was a time when furry artwork was shared via xerox and snail mail."

"I wouldn't call Eurofurence 1 a convention, by any standards," he continues. "But it was the first truly international furry get-together." The con-goers, mostly students, came came from a variety of countries, including Finland, Sweden, Denmark and the UK.

Originally planned to be a singular event, enthusiasm spread fast, and the idea of a regular European convention was born. The initial plan, to use different countries with local organizers every year, was abandoned after the fifth edition in favour of a stable core team. All further editions - except 9 - took place in Germany. Still, Eurofurence remains, true to its name, a truly pan-european convention. *(lux)*

Announcements

Unless you are staff, please use the public radio channels 1 and 2 only.

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Pool party tickets are on sale at the ConOps room in the basement (10€).

Today's Timetable

Registration Open
14:00-19:00
20:00-23:00

Barbecue (Terrace)
16:00-20:00

Opening Ceremony (Terrace)
19:00-20:00

DDR Free Play (Room 1)
Xany's Game Corner (Room 2)
Artists Lounge (Room 3)
all: 20:00-02:00

Convention Trouble

a cartoon by Pegla

Convention Trouble #67: People inside a fursuit might look different than the suit.

Starlit Encounter, pt 1

a story by Bariki

Callum grimaced as the bus jolted over yet another pot hole, his antlers hitting on the grimy glass of the window. He was running late and reached for his cell phone to try once more to call his friend but the small screen still read "No Service", as though it were taunting the stag with its stubborn refusal to work. The phone network here, much as everything else in the Sernhara Desert, seemed dead set against making life easy.

"Dammit," he thought, snapping the phone shut and pocketing it before reaching to wipe the sweat from his brow. "Dan's going to think that I've been kidnapped or something."

Deer like Callum were a rarity in the Serenhara, a desert land more suited to the hardy camels and the sleek, elegant Arabian horses that populated it than for the bulky, antlered cervid. Still, despite the heat and the stares of the locals, the stag had thus far been able to make the best out of his time here. The oil company paying him to be there made that quite simple through their generous pay, although he would have appreciated it if they had employed more jeeps, saving him from the plight of having to use the wretched local buses. Dan, his co-worker and friend, was waiting for him at the foreigners bar in Hamam, the closest town to the remote oil production facility that he was working at. He had promised him a good night out after a particularly gruelling week in the sandbox, as the workers referred to the facility. With visions of air conditioning and cold drinks in his mind, Callum leaned back in his uncomfortable seat and tried to forget the heat.

To Callum's eyes, the small town of Hamam seemed like Vegas after weeks spent in the grey steel of the oil facility. Hardly more than a village, Hamam served as a lifeline to the rest of the world for its denizens, providing the only regular postal service in the region and, more importantly, the Sarang, the only bar locally that was permitted to serve alcohol.

As the stag alighted the bus, he flipped open his phone again - still no signal! With a snort, he set off in the direction of the Sarang, hoping that Dan had waited for him there. It wasn't a long walk to the bar from the bus stop, but it was far enough that Callum drew the usual glances from the locals as they busied themselves with their everyday activities. His large, muscular body, adorned by its pointed antlers, drew attention to him like a peacock in a henhouse.

Finally, Callum reached the door of the Sarang and entered the bar to a welcome gush of cool air from the air conditioner above the door. Looking around the bar, the stag hoped to see his friend sitting at one of the tables by the empty stage, or perhaps propped up at the bar with a beer: a group of wolves were huddled together at a corner table, talking in a language that he couldn't understand; a few pairs of other foreign species were dotted around the small room, chatting, drinking, playing cards—but Dan was nowhere to be seen.

"Where the hell is he?" muttered the stag to himself as he headed over the bar, settling himself in one of the bar stools and ordering a beer.

"Might have gotten held up with something, I guess," he mused, ordering a beer and deciding that waiting for a while in the cool of the bar was a better proposition than wandering around outside. His beer arrived and he took a long, contented pull from it, a few beads of condensation running down the glass as the stag turned in his seat to lean against the bar and wait for what he was sure would only be a few minutes.

To be continued!

Impressum: Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Robert "Bariki" Blackman (bar), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Emmanuel "Tambako" Keller (tam), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang).

The Daily Eurofurence

Ringberg Hotel Suhl. Thursday, 27th August 2009 #2

Burgers, Beers and Welcome Cheers

Following a long standing tradition, Eurofurence greeted its attendees with a barbecue and welcome speeches on the terrace in front of the hotel.

"They're turning us all into vegetarians!", says a Finnish wolf and nibbles a grilled mushroom. Still, the steaks, sausages and burgers are by no means unpopular, as the long queues for the barbecue grills testify. A colourful salad buffet and an ice cream stand complete the tableau of flawless hospitality.

A large round table of British furs has formed in the middle of the terrace, laughing and cheering loudly. "Fifteen Euros for free beer refills isn't a bad deal," one of them comments on the flatrate catering concept. Meanwhile his drinking mates somewhat crudely encourage passers-by to lift up their shirts.

Even though some furs appear a bit high-sprited, everybody seems to be enjoying themselves. "I like the idea of everybody having dinner together," says Hossifer, a first time Eurofurence attendee from Philadelphia. "When we are at Anthrocon, we generally all go out in groups of five and eat in the city's restaurants."

Furs enjoying the welcome barbecue - and beer - on the terrace. photo: ang

Speech without Kage

At seven o' clock, Cheetah, Eurofurence's chairman, starts his traditional opening speech. He introduces this year's guest of honour, animator and costume builder Jimmy Chin, better known as Yippee Coyote. He also introduces three new team leads: Riffuchs (Con Operations), Hoyt (Logistics) and Gyroplast (Security). One traditional welcome speaker is missing this time: Uncle Kage and his parents are only arriving today.

As with every year, cars parked in the fire engine entry zone have to be removed. Many a fur blushes in shame when they hear their plate number read out. Amongst the giggles and nudges of their tablemates they get up to move their vehicle to the large secondary parking ground. As it is the first day of the convention, security kindly choose to forego the statutory punishment for this offence - buying a round of drinks for the whole security detail. *(lux)*

"We're no competitors to the Big Blue Dance"

Akeela and Han look forward to their party. photo: tam

An alternative party on Saturday Night? To some Eurofurence regulars, this sounds like blasphemy. But Akeela and Han don't intend to compete with the lauded Big Blue Dance. Instead, they say, they want to round off the range of choice with their event in the 40 Thieves bar.

"Not everybody enjoys BBF's flavour of dance music. At the alternative party, we will play rock, alternative, but also hip hop and some electro." Having started out as a Second Life party at Eurofurence 13, the party has evolved into an official event on the schedule. Still, Akeela likes to keep expectations low. "If twelve people come, I'm happy. If a hundred come, I'm scared!" *(lux)*

Tabbiefox: on furry in Slovakia

Tabbiefox, one of the organisers of Cesfur. photo: tam

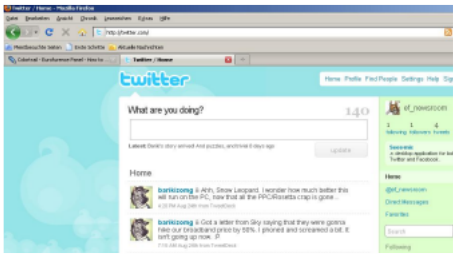
What holds furry Slovakia back?

Many furs here are students and have little money. There are some superb artists and fursuit builders here who deserve to have their work shown off, but they aren't getting the chance.

What do you think would help the local community to grow?

Better communication between the different local groups in Slovakia, perhaps a national website so that Slovakian furs could coordinate and arrange larger, more entertaining events. I'd also like to see the community get more involved internationally - see our artists and fursuit builders get their work out there. (*bar*)

Straight from the bird's beak



Tweet to the EF newsroom! screenshot: twitter.com

Some trends are here to stay and EF prides itself with the fact that we always try to be cutting-edge. Twitter is the "In-Thing" right now. Social Life and Events, News and Politics, no matter what field, Twitter has got a firm wedge into it. Celebreties love it, tyrants hate it and Joe Q. Puppy suddenly discovers that his everyday routines can become News in Twitter-land. Because of that, the EF-Newsroom is proud to present its very first, own Twitter feed. Tell us what's on your mind, share your ideas and wishes, send us feedback, all of this at #EF_Newsroom. A small selection will even see the light of the day as printed words, so use your 140 characters wisely. *(bli/cur)*

Hear that Engine Roar!

For some furs their rides can present much more than just a means of daily transportation.

These interests can easily range from furry-themed paint jobs to high-end tuning; for example, restoring classic cars or tweaking racing vehicles. Similarly, the use of the car can vary from just usual transportation to being practically a mobile base of operations. A closer look at the arriving cars revealed many smaller furry accessories here and there, but only a minority had gone further with the "furryfying" of their vehicles. Also, a handful of sporty automobiles were present, but no extensively customised rides were sighted.

Tigrenok at the wheel of his airbrushed car. photo: tam

Striped mobility

At the parking lot we met Tigrenok, whose car displayed some magnificent artwork. We found out that the highly realistic feline-themed visuals on his car were done at Tula, close to Moscow. The owner of the vehicle himself hails from Ischewsk, close to 1200 kilometers from Moscow. The artwork was based on actual photographs and in total took the artist about four days to complete. At first only the tiger was drawn, but the piece seemed to lack something, and thus for additional depth and detail the grass was added. When asked about the motivation for the visuals, he cites both displaying his furry nature and that 'it is just cute'. For those interested further, there will be an opportunity to meet others with similar interests at the Motofurs meeting, organized by Kyyanno Cheetah, taking place at the lower parking lot which starts at 13:30 on Saturday. *(hhp)*

Announcement

Fursuit Gameshow preliminaries start at 12pm. at the 40 Thieves bar. Sign up there!

Today's Timetable

Main Stage:

Gameshow ("Dead Furs...") 12:00-13:30

Magic Carpet Ride 15:00-16:30

Special Interest Groups

How to Improve Your Art (Room 1)
Jumpstyle (Room 2)
Video Editing (Room 4)
Fursuit Builder Round Table (Room 5)
all: 12:00-13:30

Subtitle Workshop (Room 1)
Pawpetshow: Behind Scenes (Room 2)
Meet the Guests (Room 4)
Cartoon Drawing (Room 5)
all: 13:30-15:00

Behind the Mascots (Room 2)
Road to Your Dreams (Room 4)
Author Reading Round Table (Room 5)
all: 15:00-16:30

Fursuit Construction 101 (Room 2)
Welcome to Eurofurence (Room 3)
Guided Meditation 1 (Room 4)
all: 16:30-18:00

Others

Fursuit Gameshow Preliminaries (Outdoors or 40 Thieves/Room 3) 12:00-15:00

Charity: Fortune Telling (Lobby) 16:00-18:00

* * * Dinnertime * * *

Main Stage:

Stage Fever 19:00-21:00

Fursuit Dance 21:30-02:00

Others:

Charity Pool Party 19:00-0:00

Skittle (40 Thieves) 20:00-00:00

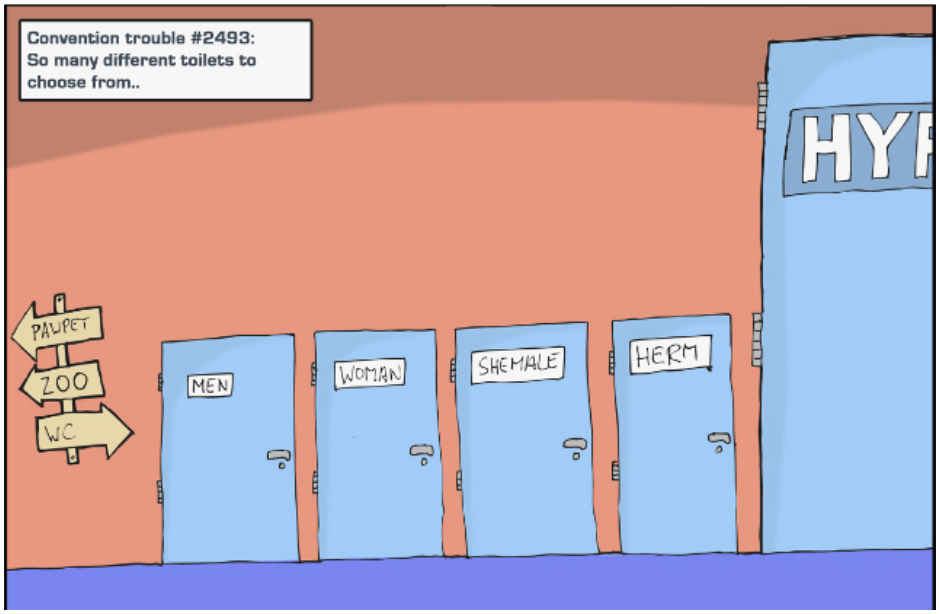
Xany's Game Corner (Room 2)
Artists Lounge (Room 3)
all: 19:00-02:00

Arabian Adventures (Room 4) 20:00-22:30

DDR Tournament (40 Thieves) 20:00-01:00

Convention Trouble

A Cartoon by Pegla



Starlit Encounter, pt 2

a story by Bariki

Twenty minutes passed by, with the stag's impatience growing in opposition to the level of his drink. As he drained the last mouthful from the glass and pondered another or simply going home, the lights at the bar dimmed and the little stage area adjacent to the door lit up. Eastern music began piping through the speakers in each corner of the room, and through the parting of the worn, red curtain of the stage emerged the most beautiful mare that Callum had ever seen. Her dish-shaped muzzle marked her as an Arabian, the flesh seemingly soft as velvet, each ear delicately pointed and perfect. The graceful curves of her neck and chest were adorned with a simple gold necklace and her belly by a blood red ruby somehow held in place in the mare's navel. The stag's eyes were drawn to the short, alluring dress that moved with the mare like tall grass in the wind as she curtsied and, in one fluid motion, cast her arms up above her and began to slowly sway in time with the music, the golden necklace shimmering in the stage lights, augmenting the exotic female's movements.

The stag sat motionless in his seat, mesmerised by the beauty in front of him as the dance continued, the mare's slender form moving with practiced ease across the stage. Time seemed to stand still for Callum: not in all his time in the Serenhara had he seen such a beautiful female, and never before in his life had one enchanted him so at first sight. She saw him gawping at her, and their eyes met for the first time – hers were a deep blue, the same as the sweltering sky here. She smiled at the stag, making his heart thump in his chest as the music came to a dramatic climax and the mare threw her arms up, head and tail snapping up as one before the silver hairs on her tail settled back down behind her. Applause rippled through the patrons as the grey mare curtsied again and slipped back through the curtains, Callum's eyes following every inch of her form until she disappeared from view.

to be continued!

The Daily Eurofurence

Ringberg Hotel Suhl. Friday, 28th August 2009 **#3**

Stage Fever: A Tale of many Tales

Aisha and the Kalif happily united. photo: ang

With 28 fursuiters, a well-written frame narrative and almost two hours of live entertainment, Stage Fever has turned into a major audience magnet that deserves its place in Eurofurence's prime-time.

Audience queues for Stage Fever were running across the entire lobby, from Herberth Roth hall to the main entrance. Scheduled for 19:00, the curtain finally opened at 20:40, not "slightly delayed, as an anonymous screen text pointed out, but "f-ing mighty delayed".

Such details were forgotten once the curtain opened and the audience was drawn into the far away court of the Kalif of Suhlistan. The Kalif, an impatient man, given to fits of cruelty had already considerably reduced the number of his subjects by dismembering and beheading both entertainers and possible brides. Only Aisha, his Grand Vizir's daughter can succeed in wooing him with her gift of storytelling.

Playback Voice-Acting, live Beatboxing

As both sketches and frame narrative were acted out exclusively by fursuiters, the voice acting was all playback - mostly recorded by the actors weeks in advance. A notable exception was Keenora, whose beatboxing was done live on stage. The sketches themselves (Aisha's stories) were of varying quality, ranging from simple slapstick to elaborate multi-person performances.

Memorable moments included a musical boxing match, the "Handy Guide to Creative Animal Costuming" and an equine magician's sleight-of-hoof. In a sketch on botched wish-fulfilment, we learnt that the most powerful amonst furries had to be a female, but the principal object of male desire might well be a keg of beer. Aisha's wishes were not botched, however - she got her Kalif in the end. *(lux)*

The Pawpet Show - Behind The Scenes

The three pawpeteers: Aragon, Lynard and o'wolf.

Ten years on from its debut at EF6, Eurofurence's Pawpet Show is still moving from strength to strength. They put on full theatrical performances - a feat only matched by Confuzzled in the UK - involving hundreds of hours of work with the dedication of 25 staff whose geography makes organising rehearsals tricky. We asked Lynard, one of EF's main puppeteers, what he gets out of all his hard work: "Sometimes I wonder why I do it," he joked, "but when I think about the hundreds of people that we make happy, it makes it all worthwhile."

For more information about puppetry, including past scripts from the EF Pawpet Show, please log on to www.pawpet.eu. (*bar*)

Furs jump to it at DDR competition

Twelve people, a handful of songs and a tournament that ended a little bit too early - yet, it seems that the Dance Dance Revolution Contest was a great success. The event provided the players with the pleasure of playing on arcade-style metal pads instead of the usual soft ones. There were no supporting rails, making the competition a thorough challenge for both beginners and professionals alike. The battle raged on, the arrows on the screen moving faster and faster as each participant had to deal with progressively harder songs. The spectators were dazzled - it seemed as though the players were tying their feet into knots. However, fairness was guaranteed as first timers were pitted against each other while the pros duelled against their own. The music did not follow any particular style; it was a medley of whatever random songs the system selected. This of course provided a challenge to even the most experienced player. In the end the first three positions where held by Littletiger (1), Greskil (2) and CuteFox (3). Congratulations to the winners from the whole "Daily Eurofurence" newsroom staff. (cur)

Royal Storyteller or Eunuch - You decide

"Five words for your story..." photo: tam

Today, 1001 stories are just not enough anymore but the honorable Khalif Al-Keela and his Grand Vizir already work on the solution, proving that 'The Desert Got Talent'. A clash of storytelling prowess took away the citizens' breath as evil Vizirs and cruel Khalifs came head to head with time-traveling cheetahs, the Doctor and one hundred half-naked Gnolls. The contestants had a lot to lose if they failed to entertain his highness; their privates for example. Some were impaled and others where turned into plaster statues. Finally, Footpad was bestowed with the title of "Royal Storyteller" ... at least until he gets too boring and his highness needs some more garden decoration. *(cur)*

Furs Ride Carpet To Breaking Point

Gyroplast gets a look in on the action. photo: bli

Something about the idea of surfing in mid-air seemed to appeal to Eurofurence attendees yesterday as the Fursuit Gameshow's preliminary "Magic Carpet Ride" event attracted higher than expected numbers of both participants and spectators. Despite a minor technical setback during the competition, which was quickly corrected, the result was an electrified main stage as hundreds of people cheered on both the brave riders as they swayed, wobbled and, more often than not, plunged from atop the ride. After a fiercly competed event, Djem emerged as the best fursuiter with a time of exactly two minutes, and Dolan was the longest surviving non-fursuiter at two minutes and fifty seconds. *(bar)*

Keep Calm and Carry On

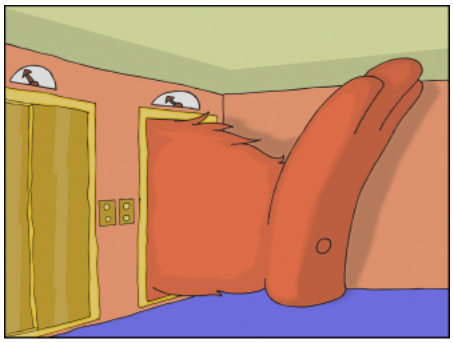
We are prepared to deal with anything, from belly ache to heart attack.

A convention attended by almost 900 furs is usually a breeding ground for a number of ailments. The most well known is probably the so-called "con crud", a version of the common cold that stems from the fact that people from many different countries and regions are squeezed together, sometimes sharing more than just a few hugs and kisses. But this year something else has crept into the global consciousness. As authorities all over the world warn about the dangers of 'Swine Flu', it seems to be reasonable to take a look at how we are prepared to deal with sickness, not necessarily concerning Swine flu itself but from all kinds of health problems that might arise. At the forefront stands our team of paramedics, which consist of Rene, Jörg and Martina. All of them are officially licensed and one of them even holds an educational position, training junior paramedics. A quick glance at their equipment reveals that our attendees are in capable hands, and if there should arise some trouble they are not able to deal with, they can fall back on medical help from outside sources, be it clinics or other healthcare professionals. In reference of the Swine Flu, their statement is crystal clear: "Don't Panic!" and though it is not written onto a book cover in large friendly letters, it is just as reassuring. *(cur)*

Convention Trouble #1573: Some people might take the Swine Flue too seriously. cartoon: Pegla

Convention Trouble

a cartoon by Pegla



Convention Trouble #2391: Elevator size: 10 people does not mean 10 furries.

The Qualifiers are....

The winners of yesterday's Fursuit Gameshow preliminaries (and hence participants in today's main show) are, in descending order of ranks:

1) Shayzo and Tobi, 2) Sahtow and Mandewo, 3) Stripe Kazama and Sharey, 4) Bailey and Storm, 5) Raffa and Ravell, 6) Orthank and Titash, 7) Iris and Polaris, 8) Chibi-Rangfar and Lysander.

We congratulate them on their skill and wish them the best for their upcoming performance on the mainstage, starting at half past two. *(lux)*

Starlit Encounter, pt 3

a story by Bariki

The barman, a desert fox, nudged the stag's arm.

"Don't be making assumptions about her, my friend," he said, wagging a finger. "She may look gentle, but that mare's more maelstrom than puff of wind." Callum nodded, casting a glance back at the now empty stage.

"Friend, what is that maelstrom's name?" said Callum as the fox turned to serve another customer.

"Aasifa" the barman said. "But she..." he trailed off as he turned his head and saw the stag moving towards the door. The fox smiled to himself. They never listened.

"I have time to talk with her," thought Callum as he walked around the small building. "Dan still isn't here, probably isn't coming anyway, so there's no harm."

The Sarang, like most bars, had a rear service entrance for deliveries and staff use, and it was from here that the stag assumed that Aasifa would emerge. The stag's nostrils crinkled as he took in his surroundings: the alleyway behind the bar was small, barely wide enough for a car, and there were endless piles of empty boxes piled up against the dead end wall of the alley. There were hardly any streetlights in Hamam, and only starlight and moonlight to light the town at night. It was hardly the ideal place to meet such a beautiful creature, he thought, but then again the Sarang hardly seemed like the ideal place for her to be working anyway, with its worn stage and decidedly dingy atmosphere.

Callum's ears flicked as he caught the sound of claws on concrete from behind him, and the stag turned to see the three wolves from inside the bar. Up close, they were much bigger and far more threatening than they had appeared inside: fur bristling, muscles flexing in the flickering streetlight. The one in the middle pulled a blade from his pocket and grinned wickedly at Callum as the one to his left barked something that the stag didn't understand in words but understood by its vicious intent – *this is a robbery, buddy.*

to be continued!

Announcements:

The Group Photo will be shot on the terrace at 11:45.

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The SIG "DJ-ing Techniques" takes place today (not Saturday), at 15:00, Room 5.

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Tapped beer and soft drinks are also available at the snack bar, facing the reception. Cocktails are only available at the main bar.

Today's Timetable

Main Stage:

The Fursuit Gameshow 13:30-15:00

Furry Music Café 16:30-18:00

Special Interest Groups

Action, not Words (Room 1)
Drawing Vector Style (Room 2)
First Time Fursuiting (Room 3)
Modeling Dinosaurs (Room 4)
Furry History Roundtable (Room 5)
all: 12:00-13:30

Second Life for Dummies (Room 1)
Show Laser Systems (Room 2)
Lucid Dreaming (Room 3)
Furry Shuffle (Room 4)
Furries in the Press (Room 5)
all: 13:30-15:00

Plotlines for Comics (Room 1)
Furry Parents Roundtable (Room 2)
Music Instrument Basics (Room 3)
Concept Costume Character (Room 4)
DJ-ing Techniques (Room 5)
all: 15:00-16:30

The Fox Panel (Room 2)
Non-Material Entities (Room 3)
Guided Meditation 2 (Room 4)
Fur n' Tech (Room 5)
all: 16:30-18:00

Others

Group Photo (Terrace) 11:45-12:15

Charity Body Painting (Artist Alley) 15:00-18:00

* * * Dinnertime * * *

Main Stage:

Art Auction 19:00-21:00

Uncle Kage vs. Two 21:30-00:30

Others:

Charity Pool Party 19:00-00:00

Skittle (40 Thieves) 20:00-00:00

City of Brass (Room 4) 20:00-22.30

DDR Free Play (Room 1)
Xany's Game Corner (Room 2)
Artists Lounge (Room 3)
all: 19:00-02:00

Impressum: Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Robert "Bariki" Blackman (bar), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Emmanuel "Tambako" Keller (tam), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang).

The Daily Eurofurence

Ringberg Hotel Suhl. Saturday, 29th August 2009, #4

Uncle Kage vs. 2: Das Ist Not Perfect?

"I fly all over the world to get drunk and fall down." So started the Friday night "Uncle Kage vs 2" comedy session. Uncle Kage's Story Hour, long since an event that Eurofurence attendees have looked forward to, was hugely entertaing and combined his usual style of bashful comedy and hilarious amusement. The good doctor kept the attendees laughing with anecdotes inspired from his role as Anthrocon chairman and from travelling around the world to other conventions. Forefront in his set was the story of "Günther", the anonymous friend of André (Eurofurence's "Hairless Master of Alcohol") whom Uncle Kage posed as to arrive under cover at the New Year's Eve party in Suhl last year to provide a surprise for the other party goers.

There was an intermission between Uncle Kage and 2's sets during which, as has become customary, there was the serving of "Freibier" at the main bar along with a congratulatory speech by Cheetah that praised the staff of the Ringberg Hotel for their years of dedicated service to Eurofurence.

2's performance followed its standard format of shocking yet hilarious jokes that touched

Kage and 2 share a moment on stage. photo: ang

upon a plethora of charged topics that ranged from furrys and their parents to the odd layout of British pub toilets (according to a certain cockroach anyway - Ed.). 2's final collaborative session with Kage involved several beers and glasses of wine that added the final touch to a night of world-class comedy that Eurofurence has come to expect from the two celebreties. *(bar)*

Art Auction bids more cautious than last year

The auction again saw Uncle Kage reprise his usual post as the auctioneer, making an effort to get more for the contested items from the art show. The general atmosphere of the auction remained slightly cautious, with several items going at the bidsheet prices despite Kage's lively attempts to solicit additional bidding for them. It is possible that the ongoing global financial crisis has had an effect on the auction proceedings. A few of the items ignited a somewhat longer bidding fight; in those cases our auctioneer was quick to pit the bidders against each other and otherwise try to make sure they would bid higher. Also, donated charity items for support of the Suhl animal park were auctioned, as were the main stage backdrops and a few convention-related posters. The convincing echo observed each time when the auctioneer mentioned Dark Natasha proved to be well justified, as it was a piece from her that fetched the highest price. This year no especially surprising or humorous novelty items appeared, and the feeling was more of business as usual with a good selection of more typical artistic items. *(hhp)*

Eurodance and giant Whirlpools

Dancing the conga, pool party style. photo: ang

Drinking and dancing in the pool area? What is usually a no-go was made possible last night at Eurofurence's first pool party event. Large speakers transformed the tiled hall into a wet, cheerful discotheque. The attendees straddled their inflatable dolphins, tossed beachballs or put squirtguns to good use. To MafunDi's selection of 90s Eurodance, large groups of furs started moving simultaneously in circles, creating giant whirlpools of irresistible sucking power. Those who did not feel like splashing away in the water, relaxed on deckchairs, sipping Gin and Tonic from the pool bar or sweated away in the sauna. Almost all of the charity tickets sold, and raised a total of 900 € for Suhl's wildlife park. (lux)

Fursuit Gameshow: Royal Decision

Fursuiters all tied up in knots. photo: ang

After the qualifying rounds, eight teams of two fursuiters remained for the main event on Friday. There, the sultan and his loyal helper declared their intention to provide us with entertainment, and the promise was to be duly fulfilled. Critter teams made their way through thirteen games, ranging from the distribution of sweet treats to the audience, sculpting balloon animals and "catapulting" kittens across the stage. After a tense semi-final and a closely fought final round the sultan consulted the audience and then in his wiseness declared the teams to have been, in practice, equal. Thus Raffa, Ravell, Shayzo and Tobi shared the fame in the fursuit gameshow. *(hhp)*

Musical medley and marble cake

AJA, Jayric and Taibu jamming away. photo: ang

A jam session of musical exploits, chock full of fun and entertainment in a setting between feel good cafe and music parlor that is what the Furry Music Cafe is intended to be. The musical spectrum is delightfully diverse. It ranges from covers of all time classics to the musician's own creative works. Some songs really tug the heartstrings, while others make your feet all giddy. In terms of music, the cafe was a brilliant success. However, a small issue dampened the overall experience; the arrangements of the chairs felt too much like a stage show and the position of the coffee table behind the musician's pit made it slightly awkward to walk upfront and collect the offered goods during a performance. (cur)

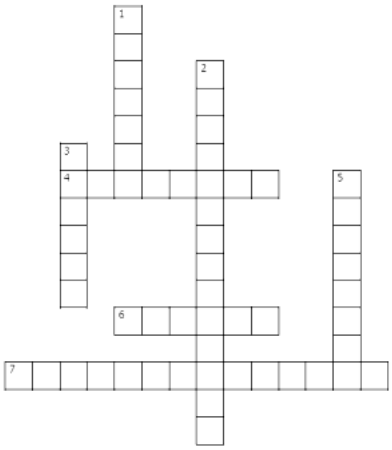
An Ongoing Debate: Soft Taxidermy

Furs who visited the Eurofurence homepage might have stumbled upon a rather unconventional ad banner. It showed a mangy fox, surrounded by flies, wearing a bow and looking rather dead. Large white letters read "Against Fur Zombies". The reason for this is a controversy which originated on the art portal DeviantArt concerning so called "soft taxidermy". Traditional taxidermy usually consist of a stuffed animal mounted onto a base in a fixed position. Soft taxidermy animals are constructed in a fashion that makes them resemble a plush toy instead of a traditional stuffed animal. These "real fur plushies" have gathered quite a following and gained infamy as they increasingly became sold as commodities. The morbid nature of these transactions soon drew criticism from many different areas that spawned a movement that was highly critical of these constructions. As the issue became more controversial, advocates as well as opponents exchanged heated arguments. The proponents stated that they can connect to the animal they love through these constructions and that the fur comes from sources that are not unnecessarily cruel to the animal. One of the most common arguments used by the proponents is that their creations are artwork - their critics strongly contest this position, declaring that reducing an animal that one supposedly respects to nothing more than a plaything could never be called love. Video material created by respectable sources concerning the treatment of animals on fur farms also throws doubt onto the statement concerning the humane treatment of the creatures involved. The arguments concerning art, however, lead to a clash between legality and morality that needs to be treated with care as it may lead to issues of censorship, concerning filters or even the call for removal of the material from DeviantArt that the administrators are not legally obliged to do. However, with each camp set so far apart, reaching a common ground on this issue may take quite some time. (Ed.)

The logo used on the Eurofurence homepage

Crossword Puzzle

You can find the solution in front of the ConOps office.



ACROSS
4 Chicago suburb that will host Midwest FurFest 2009
6 Australia's largest furry convention
7 The theme for RBW 2009

DOWN
1 City that hosts the world's second largest furry convention
2 A new Canadian convention in London, Ontario (2010)
3 Eurofurence 2 was held in this country
5 The hotel brand used by Furry Connection North 2009

Starlit Encounter, pt 4

a story by Bariki

The stag held his ground, snorting and dipping his head slightly to aim his antlers at the approaching wolves, close enough now that he could pick up their scent, all anger and cold malevolence. Just as the middle one was about to strike out at Callum, the back door from the Sarang burst open and a silver-coloured whirlwind ploughed into the armed wolf, knocking him to the ground with a whine. The stag stood dumbly as Aasifa stood for a moment, her silver mane seemingly ablaze as it cascaded down her neck and back before she stomped a hood down on the felled wolf's paw with a sickening sound, making him howl with pain. She kicked the blade from his reach and glared at the fallen wolves' comrades, their courage shrivelling as the saw their leader's pain and the fury in the female's eyes. They turned tail and ran, leaving the grey mare standing over the wolf lying at her feet. Aasifa snorted at him, kicking his delicate muzzle and shouting something that made the wolf cringe and scurry away, limping on his damaged paw. Callum, to this point speechless at the display he'd just witnessed, sighed in relief and took a step towards the mare. Her ears flicked as he moved and she spun around to face him, her muzzle flashing him an equine snarl, making the stag halt in his tracks.

"Why were you waiting for me, stupid creature?" she asked, her silver tail flitting behind her in anger. "If you thought that perhaps those thieves would share me with you, you thought wrong!"

to be continued!

Announcements

Art Sales and Pick-up are open 14:00-18:00. There is no pick-up on Sunday!

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Not Footpad, but Lone Ferret won the Story Telling contest. Our apologies!

Contestants for Quiz

Qualifiers for "Who wants to be a Pawpeteer?" quiz are: AJA, Akeela, Plushfox, Jumpy, MOW, Uncle Kage, Tyger, Shirik, Tungro. Please come to the stage one hour early (14:00).

Today's Timetable

Main Stage:
Concert AJ Adams
12:00-13:30
Who Wants to be a Pawpeteer?
15:00-16:30

Special Interest Groups
Pawpet Show: Special Effects (Room 1)
3D Animation (Room 2)
The Plushie Panel (Room 3)
Lions, Tigers and Bears (Room 4)
Improve your Acting Skills (Room 5)
all: 12:00-13:30
Why Mascots Matter (Room 2)
Dungeons and Bunnies (Room 3)
How to Run a Con (Room 4)
The Origins of Magic (Room 5)
Motofurs Meeting (Lower Lot)
all: 13:30-15:00
Composing Music (Room 2)
1001 Nights Stories & Tea (Room 3)
Video Game Developers RT (Room 4)
Faux Real Tail Construction (Room 5)
all: 15:00-16:30
I Suit, Therefore I Am (Room 1)
Rock Guitar Basics (Room 2)
Skunki's Diver Meeting(Room 5)
all: 16:30-18:00

Others
Fursuit Parade Start (Lobby)
11:00-12:00
Charity Event (Zoo Suhl):
- Photo shoot (qualifiers only), 14:00
- Suitwalk (public), 16:30
14:00-17:30

*** Dinnertime ***

Main Stage:
Pawpet Show: Operation Desert Snow
19:00-22:00
Big Blue Dance
22:30- Open End

Others:
Alternative Party (40 Thieves)
22:00-02:00

DDR Free Play (Room 1)
Xany's Game Corner (Room 2)
Artists Lounge (Room 3)
Werewolves [Game] (Room 4)
all: 22:30-02:00

Impressum: Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Robert "Bariki" Blackman (bar), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Emmanuel "Tambako" Keller (tam), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang), Philipp "Batian_Lion" Bepler (bli).

The Daily Eurofurence

Ringberg Hotel Suhl. Sunday, 30th August 2009

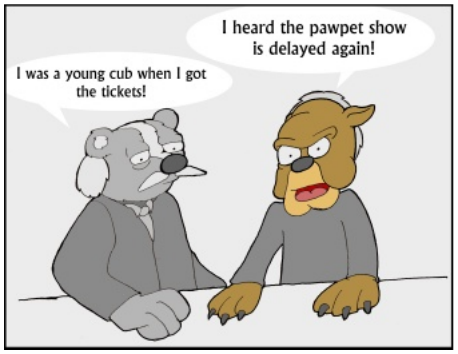
Postscript

It's been one hell of ride since Wednesday. There might be a few cases of PCD coming up, but all the photos, videos and journal posts to come in the next few days will help to remind us of the awesome time that's been had.

We've put in some long nights to bring you *The Daily Eurofurence*, sometimes beavering away until 6AM putting our work together. Thank you all for supporting our debut and we very much look forward to the long nights next year. Safe travels, and we'll see you all at Dead Dog Night. *(Ed.)*

Grumpy old furs say:

A cartoon by Pegla



Pawpet Show whips up a storm

Our lovely leading ladies share a moment of friendship. photo: bli

This years Pawpet Show marked the 10th anniversary of an event that can easily be described as the "highlight" of the whole convention.

The various cultural and social critique, raised in the form of BBC specials and audio snippets, came off as natural. not feeling heavy-handed. The comic timing was brilliant. The jokes worked well and flowed nicely from smut to fine satire. The overall plot structure of the show was classic and actually aided the performance since it shifted the focus from the plot towards character interaction. Another clever idea was to put most of the storyline into the set construction breaks, which are a necessary evil. Not only did it prevent a loss of focus in the audience, it also helped to keep the actual scenes from being weighed down by too much detail and left more room for character interaction. However, there were some issues concerning character development. Some of them were in danger of being reduced to simple narrative roles. Lionel is a good example of this: he seemed to slip into the background towards the end. Lori and Poke were mostly used as comic relief, which did, however, work rather well for them and entertained the audience immensely. The effects were outstanding, especially the waterfall effect in the finale which could easily be called one of the most impressive effects ever performed during a Pawpet Show. All in all this years production worked well and gained standing ovations. *(cur)*

Puppeteers Pull No Punches During Quiz

Buzzers taste delicious! photo: bli

Yesterday afternoon saw "Who Wants To Be A Pawpeteer?" on the main stage. With three rounds of questions and three participants per round, the competition was serious as each person battled for a place in the final.

A minor technical hitch during the second round when the computer program showing the questions crashed, wiping out the contestants' scores. However, this was quickly corrected by Eurofurence's crack technical team.

Jumpy, Tungro and Plushfox all qualified for the final, and after a very tough final set of questions, Tungro emerged as the victor. *(bar)*

Happy Kids and full collection boxes

Careful first contacts. photo: ang

Yesterday, EosFoxx and her team visited Tierpark Suhl, this year's nominated charity, as the last in a series of Charity events. A selection of fursuiters had been invited to entertain the park visitors, strike poses and rattle their collection boxes. Some of the smaller kids were slightly afraid, but most of them warmed up quickly and ventured to hug or pet the fursuiters, or play tag with them. A press photographer from "Freies Wort" was also present. The animal park might soon be even more attractive, as the donations from this year's charity events will go towards the construction of a meerkat enclosure. *(lux)*

Fursuiters Take Over Ringberg During Parade

A wall of fursuiters - almost 300. photo: tam

Shortly before noon on Saturday and led by the esteemed caliph himself, the fursuit parade drew around 280 critters to tour the hotel grounds. The convention has had a lot to offer for the fursuiters: both the usual fursuit gameshow and stage show were on the schedule and panels were given on suit construction topics and on different aspects of acting in suit. These were in part given by our guest of honour, Jimmy Chin, a highly talented fursuiter himself. Additionally the fursuit lounge was larger this year, and was well equipped both in terms of cooling and refreshments for the suiters themselves. *(hhp)*

"The hardest Decision of my Life"

Eurofurence's chairman Cheetah speaks openly about Eurourence leaving Suhl and the future plans of the convention.

How happy are you with this year's Eurofurence?

"I'm very pleased. There were no major disruptions and the additional people dispersed surprisingly well across the location, thanks to the nice weather - it never felt crowded."

What was less pleasant?

"On Tuesday, we finally told the hotel management, we were not coming back next year. They were sad, all their staff were sad. We all were sad. The Ringberg hotel was a perfect location. Leaving it was hardest decision of my life. It caused me and my team many a sleepless night."

What was so special about the Ringberg Hotel?

"They never said "No" to anything we asked, because they are just as enthusiastic and creative as we are. What other hotel would keep their bar open for us until 7am? Or change their entire catering concept for our convention? They allowed us to have a pool party and a campfire. They also gave us the master key to all their doors; they trust us unconditionally. All this is far beyond what your average hotel does. And most of all, they were genuinely friendly, warm and open-hearted. We always felt at home here."

So why did we leave in the end?

"The hotel is filled to the brim. In fact, it is booked 150 percent. And still we have a waiting list of more than three hundred people. Next year, it would most likely be seven hundred. We simply had to change to a bigger location."

Will Eurofurence continue to grow?

"Yes. We have no choice, really. Long waiting lists are a serious hazard. The problem is not even that those who cannot come will be disappointed, but that circles of friends will be disrupted. If they cannot see their friends at Eurofurence, many artists, performers and core staff might turn their backs on the event. Other conventions have suffered or even died from that."

"Ringberg Hotel felt like a second home." photo: ang

Is there a maximum convention size that our volunteer staff can deal with?

"Not really. There are a few domains where we need professionals, such as the paramedics and some technicians for the equipment we rent. But generally our staff is just as capable as professionals. There is little need for further outsourcing, even if the convention gets bigger."

Will the furries ever return to Suhl?

I'm trying hard to think of a way of coming back here. In either case, we will hold another New Year's party at the Ringberg this year."

interview: (lux)

Announcements

All departing guests should have cleared their rooms by 11:00

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Today's Feedback (Room 1, 14:00) session is open to all attendees, not only staff. Please come and contribute.

Today's Timetable

Feedback Session (Room 1)
14:00-15:30

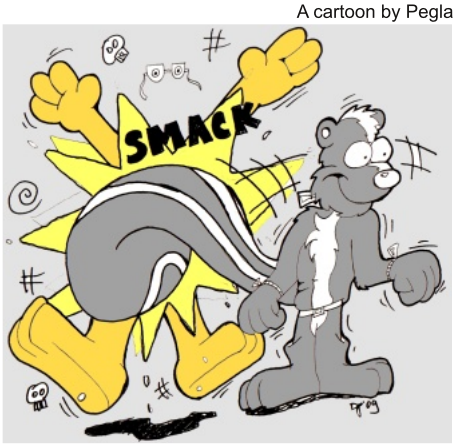
Eurofurence e.V. Meeting (Room 1)
15:30-17:00

Dead Dog Party (40 Thieves)
20:00-02:00

Impressum: Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Robert "Bariki" Blackman (bar), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Emmanuel "Tambako" Keller (tam), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang), Philipp "Batian_Lion" Bepler (bli).

Convention Trouble

A cartoon by Pegla



Convention Trouble #2101: Fursuiters tip: Dimensions. cartoon: Pegla

Starlit Encounter, pt 5

a story by Bariki

Her accent was thick, only adding to the exotic nature of the female, but at the moment she was nothing like the gentle mare Callum had seen inside. Stamping a hoof on the ground in rage, the grey mare advanced a step towards Callum. The stag stood frozen in fear, not expecting this sort of reaction from the female.

"No, no, you've got it all wrong" said Callum, holding up his hands in a protest of innocence. "I was inside, remember? I smiled at you. I thought that you were very beautiful," he said more quietly, his ears burning as the mare glared at him. At his words, Aasifa's expression mellowed a little, the mare's clenched fists relaxing as a flicker of recognition flashed across her muzzle.

"Yes, you were," she said softly, taking another step towards the stag but, this time, with no menace in the movement. She sniffed the air, taking in Callum's scent and picking up fear and uncertainty from the large animal but no trace of malicious intent, and a hint of arousal. How interesting...

"I am sorry for frightening you," Aasifa said, her nose within inches of the stag's. "What is your name, stag?"

"Callum," he replied shakily, unsure if the grey mare was about to kick his butt or not. The mare smiled, placing a hand on the stag's chest.

"Callum," she repeated. "A good name. I am Aasifa, as that whoremonger of a bartender probably told you."

The stag dropped his head in embarrassment, ashamed of himself for upsetting the beautiful mare.

"He did, yes, but I..." Callum was cut off as Aasifa leaned in and lifted his head, pressing her lips to the stag's. It was only the briefest of kisses, but as the mare broke the contact she kept their lips hovering just apart. When she spoke, her breath wafted against the stag's nose, making him shiver and dispelling any fear that was left in him.

"Thank you for saying that I am beautiful," she said before leaning into the kiss again. The world dropped away from them as Callum reached to wrap his arms around Aasifa, drawing her against his strong body. The taste of her mouth flooded his mind: a sweet taste of grass, slick and pure like dew formed on a single leaf in an oasis. Her scent, hitherto clouded in anger, swirled around him, hot and alluring like sand borne on the desert wind. Aasifa, as Callum's arms embraced her and pressed her delicate yet strong body against him, felt the outline of the stag's muscles on her. Her sensitive nostrils quivered against the stag's as his reassuring, masculine scent washed over her, fuelling the fire that she felt within her chest. For once, she felt safe and happy in the surrender of herself to another, and as the two sank deeper into the kiss, Aasifa nickered softly in bliss.

It was hardly the most romantic of settings, but as they sank to the ground under the starlit desert night and their limbs entwined, it seemed to them as though they had both at once found paradise.

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Back inside the Sarang, Dan was sitting at the bar, having finally arrived. The whitetail fumbled with his phone in frustration, wondering just where his friend could have gotten to.

The End